

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (previously amended) An apparatus for preparing soil to be planted for the placement therein of at least one of seed and additive, said apparatus comprising:

a frame having a front and rear;

a coulter wheel mounted on the frame at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil ~~to create an opening for at least one of seed and additive~~ as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil; and

at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame and engaging the soil, a portion of said toothed wheel extending rearwardly of said coulter wheel with respect to said travel direction, and a forward portion of said toothed wheel overlapping at least a rear portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel.

27. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said toothed wheel is angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel with the overlapping portion of said toothed wheel converging toward said coulter wheel so that the tips of the teeth are closest to said coulter wheel.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 which includes a pair of said toothed wheels.

29. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said toothed wheels are both angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel with the overlapping portion of said toothed wheel converging toward said coulter wheel so that the tips of the teeth are closest to said coulter wheel.

30. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said coulter wheel has a central axis and said toothed wheel resides substantially entirely rearwardly of said central axis of the coulter wheel.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said coulter wheel is one of a wave and a ripple construction.

32. (previously amended) An apparatus for preparing soil to be planted, said apparatus comprising:

a frame having a front and rear;
a coulter wheel mounted on the frame at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil; and
at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame and engaging the soil, said toothed wheel overlapping a rear portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel and tracing ~~The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said toothed wheel is mounted on said frame so that it traces~~ a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects said coulter wheel.

33. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 26 in combination with a pair of discs mounted on the frame for continuously defining an open slot in the soil ~~loosened by the toothed wheel~~ for receipt of at least one of seed and fertilizer as the frame advances in a travel direction.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 33 in combination with a seed supply mounted on the frame for continuously delivering at least one of seed and fertilizer to soil and a pair of closing wheels mounted on the frame for continuously placing soil in said slot as the frame is advanced in a travel direction.

35. (previously amended) A method of preparing soil to be planted ~~for the placement therein of at least one of seed and additive~~, said method comprising:
traversing the soil with ~~a frame~~ a frame carrying

a rotatable coulter wheel mounted at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil ~~to create an opening for at least one of seed and additive~~ as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil, and

at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame, a portion of said toothed wheel extending rearwardly of said coulter wheel with respect to said travel direction, and a forward portion of said toothed wheel ~~and~~ overlapping ~~at least~~ a rear portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel, said toothed wheel being mounted at an elevation at which said toothed wheel engages the soil to redistribute residue on the soil.

36. (previously amended) The method of claim 35 wherein said toothed wheel is angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel with the overlapping portion of said toothed wheel converging toward said coulter wheel so that the tips of the teeth are closest to said coulter wheel.

37. (original) The method of claim 35 which includes a pair of said toothed wheels.

38 (previously amended) The method of claim 37 wherein said toothed wheels are both angled to redistribute residue laterally from said opening created by said coulter wheel with the overlapping portion of said toothed wheel converging toward said coulter wheel so that the tips of the teeth are closest to said coulter wheel.

39. (original) The method of claim 35 wherein said coulter wheel has a central axis and said toothed wheel resides substantially entirely rearwardly of said central axis of the coulter wheel.

40. (original) The method of claim 35 wherein said coulter wheel is one of a wave and a ripple construction.

41. (previously amended) A method of preparing soil to be planted, said method comprising:
traversing the soil with a frame carrying
a rotatable coulter wheel mounted at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil
as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil, and
at least one toothed wheel rotatably mounted on the frame and overlapping a rear portion
of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel and tracing ~~The method of claim~~
~~35 wherein said toothed wheel is mounted on said frame so that it~~ a path in rotation bounded by a
plane that intersects said coulter wheel, said toothed wheel being mounted at an elevation at
which said toothed wheel engages the soil to redistribute residue on the soil.

42. (previously amended) The method of claim 35 which includes ~~a pair of discs~~
~~mounted on said frame for~~ continuously defining forming an open slot in the soil ~~loosened by~~
behind the toothed wheel for receipt of at least one of seed and fertilizer as the frame advances in
a travel direction.

43. (previously amended) The method of claim 42 which includes ~~a seed supply~~
~~mounted on said frame for~~ continuously delivering at least one of seed and fertilizer to soil and a
pair of closing wheels mounted on the frame for continuously placing soil in said slot as the
frame is advanced in a travel direction.

44. (new) An apparatus for preparing soil to be planted, said apparatus comprising
a frame having a first portion adapted to mount a rotatable coulter wheel at an elevation
at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over
the soil, and a second portion adapted to mount at least one rotatable toothed wheel in a position
at which said toothed wheel engages the soil as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over
the soil, with a portion of said toothed wheel extending rearwardly of said coulter wheel with
respect to said travel direction, and a forward portion of said toothed wheel overlapping a rear
portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel,
a coulter wheel adapted to be mounted on said first portion of said frame, and
at least one toothed wheel adapted to be mounted on said second portion of said frame.

45. (new) A method of preparing soil to be planted, said method comprising providing a frame having a first portion adapted to mount a rotatable coulter wheel at an elevation at which said coulter wheel penetrates the soil as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil, and a second portion adapted to mount at least one rotatable toothed wheel in a position at which said toothed wheel engages the soil as the frame is advanced in a travel direction over the soil, with a portion of said toothed wheel extending rearwardly of said coulter wheel with respect to said travel direction, and a forward portion of said toothed wheel overlapping a rear portion of said coulter wheel to strip soil clods from said coulter wheel, providing a coulter wheel adapted to be mounted on said first portion of said frame, and providing at least one toothed wheel adapted to be mounted on said second portion of said frame.